

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

NEA-10 EUR-12 AF-06 OMB-01 /093 W

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R 141010Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 592

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN BM

SUBJ: EXPRESSION OF U.S. DISPLEASURE OVER BURMA'S UNGA VOTE

REF: STATE 266851; RANGOON 3247

SUMMARY: OWING TO TIGHT SCHEDULE, DCM CALLED ON U MAUNG MAUNG GYI TO EXPRESS KEEN USG DISAPPOINTMENT IN BURMESE VOTE ON KOREAN RESOLUTIONS AND TO URGE REVERSION TO TRADITIONAL POLICY OF ABSTENTION. MAUNG MAUNG GYI OFFERED LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT BUT ADDED, IN AN ASIDE, THAT BURMA HAD RECENTLY SWITCHED ITS VOTE ON ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION (ZIONISM). WE ARE SINGULARLY PESSIMISTIC, GIVEN GUB PERCEPTION OF "NEW REALITIES" AND OUR OWN LACK OF LEVERAGE HERE, THAT BURMA WILL SWITCH TO ABSTENTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PROTOCOL HAS INFORMED US GENERAL TIN OO (ACTING FONMIN) HAS SUCH A PRESSING SCHEDULE THAT HE CAN RECEIVE NO CALLS THIS WEEK. SINCE MONDAY IS A GUB HOLIDAY, TUESDAY IS DATE SCHEDULED FOR VOTE AND AMBASSADOR OSBORN RETURNING FROM UP-COUNTRY TRIP ON EVENING OF NOVEMBER 14, DCM CALLED ON U MAUNG MAUNG GYI AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 14. HE NOTED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED A CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND URGED THAT CONTENT BE RELAYED TO U HLA PHONE IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN FROM PEKING. DCM REVIEWED US ATTEMPTS TO ARRIVE AT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN

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ISSUE. HE POINTED TO THE CLEARLY HOSTILE INTENT OF THE ALGERIAN

RESOLUTION TOWARD THE USG AND EXPRESSED THE SURPRISE OF THE USG THAT BURMA SHOULD DEVIATE FROM ITS PAST POLICY OF ABSTENTION IN THIS MATTER. HE RECALLED HIS EARLIER WARNING (RANGOON 2536) THAT PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE A MORE INTRANSIGENT STANCE ON THE PART OF NORTH KOREA AND POINTED TO RECENT NORTH KOREAN STATEMENTS THAT ONLY CONFIRM THIS FEAR. HE REVIEWED THE TREATY BASIS FOR THE STATIONING OF U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA AND NOTED THAT THE RESOLUTION WHILE EXACERBATING FEELINGS WILL, IN FACT, BE INEFFECTUAL. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE USG THAT BURMA WILL REVERT TO KHS TRADITIONAL ABSTENTION OF THIS ISSUE. FINALLY, HE ASKED THE FOREIGN OFFICE MAKE SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON U HLA PHONE OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. MAUNG MAUNG GYI GAVE ASSURANCES THAT USG VIEWS WOULD REACH THE FONMIN THIS WEEKEND. HE SIMILARLY AGREED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAD MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE AND "OTHERS" HAD ALSO TRIED TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE SAID THESE VIEWS WOULD RECEIVE THOROUGH CONSIDERATION AND FINALLY POINTED OUT THAT BURMA HAD RECENTLY SWITCHED ITS VOTING ON ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: THE SWITCH ON THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF WAKING UP AND PAYING ATTENTION AND HARDLY SERVES AS A PRECEDENT FOR POLICY CHANGES RESULTING FROM DEMARCHES. THE RECENT EXCHANGE OF TOASTS IN PEKING REITERATED BURMESE OPPOSITION TO THE STATIONING OF TROOPS ON FOREIGN SOIL AND THIS IS THE WAY WE THINK BURMA WILL VOTE. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ENJOY NO LEVERAGE HERE AND OUR DISPLEASURE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT MOTIVE FOR A BURMESE SWITCH.
OSBORN

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